



ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD

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MARK A. KERN
CHAIRMAN

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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 12, 2009

Mr. William R. Blanton Jr., Chief
Engineering Management Branch
Mitigation Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

SUBJECT: Community: St. Clair County, Illinois
Community No.: 170616

Dear Mr. Blanton:

In accordance with your July 10, 2009 letter addressed to me regarding the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), please consider this correspondence as a formal appeal from St. Clair County regarding the validity of the preliminary FIS and DFIRMs that FEMA provided to the County. This appeal is based on countywide four-foot contour mapping which was developed in 2008. We insist that this documentation not be overlooked as FEMA endeavors to produce the best possible FIRMs for communities to use as they diligently pursue compliance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Please find enclosed a digital copy of the four-foot contour mapping for your use in revising the floodplains as delineated on the preliminary DFIRMs.

To demonstrate that the currently presented preliminary DFIRMs have significant errors related to the delineations of the floodplains due to not using the "best available" detailed contour mapping, the County investigated two separate locations of streams. The stream reaches included in this investigation included a reach of Richland Creek near the southern boundary of Belleville and a reach of Ash Creek just south of Scott Air Force Base. These reaches were chosen based on one of the locations being highly urbanized and the other being a partially undeveloped rural type area. The choice of using two distinct types of areas in our evaluation was deemed prudent in an attempt to avoid the potential of skewing the results had only one type of area been used.

Our investigation involved using the GIS software product ArcView 9.3. This software was used to digitize and plot the floodplain as delineated on the preliminary DFIRMs for the specific reaches of the streams noted above. As a comparison, the base flood elevations listed on the

EXHIBIT

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preliminary DFIRMs were used to delineate and plot the floodplain boundaries based on the County's four-foot contour mapping. Both floodplain boundaries were plotted on the same respective exhibit to demonstrate the difference between the two conditions for each of the stream reaches. Please refer to the enclosed Figures 1 and 2 which depict the floodplain comparison results. As shown on these exhibits there are large areas where the use of the four-foot contour mapping demonstrates inaccuracies in the floodplains as delineated on the currently released preliminary DFIRMs.

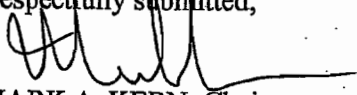
Therefore, it is obvious that the floodplain delineations throughout St. Clair County as depicted in the preliminary DFIRMs are likely to be inaccurate simply from the use of poor and outdated topographic information to generate the floodplain configurations. Because St. Clair County has expended significant tax dollars to provide four-foot contour mapping for the entire county, it seems prudent to use this data as the underlying basis for all the floodplains within the county where less accurate data was used to delineate the floodplains. If this approach is not implemented, FEMA is simply placing inaccurate data on a format, a DFIRM, which then has the perception to most parties of being extremely precise. Nothing could be further from the truth in many instances.

Another area of potential concern was the apparent number of Letters of Map Change (LOMC) that had been issued by St. Clair County but were not listed in the preliminary FIS. To ensure critical LOMCs had not been disregarded on the preliminary DFIRMs, an evaluation of the LOMCs issued since the effective date of the current FIRM (November 5, 2003) was completed to ensure that the preliminary DFIRMs incorporated all impacts from the critical issued LOMCs. The summary results of that evaluation are shown on the enclosed Tables, 1, 2 and 3. Based on this information, it appears that the majority of the LOMCs which could impact floodplain delineations have been listed in the preliminary FIS as being incorporated into the information presented on the preliminary DFIRMs. However, our evaluation indicates that the LOMCs associated with the Plum Hill Estates subdivision adjacent to Loop Creek have not been incorporated into panel 220 of the preliminary DFIRM. The enclosed exhibit entitled Figure 3 indicates areas that should be shown as being removed from the floodplain based on LOMCs issued under FEMA case numbers 04-05-0471C, 04-05-1861X, 04-05-2741A, 05-05-0879A and 07-05-2368A. The inconsistencies in the floodplain delineations on Loop Creek in the vicinity of Plum Hill Estates should be corrected.

As you know, the final DFIRMs are to be used for the purposes of implementing local floodplain management regulations to ensure eligibility with respect to the National Flood Insurance Program. Since the preliminary DFIRMs as currently presented to St. Clair County contain significant inaccuracies as discussed above, it would be irresponsible and expose the County to potential litigation for the County to endorse the preliminary DFIRMs in their current form. Therefore, it is in the best interest of both the County and FEMA to hold the issuance of the final DFIRMs in abeyance until there is mutually acceptable resolution for the identified problems with the preliminary DFIRMs.

Questions concerning these matters should be directed to Mr. Mike Mitchell, Director of Building and Zoning for St. Clair County. He may be reached at 618-277-6600, extension 2530.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK A. KERN, Chairman
St. Clair County Board

Enclosures: DVD with County contour mapping files
Table 1- Summary of all LOMCs
Table 2- LOMCs listed in pre-FIS
Table 3- LOMCs not listed in pre-FIS
Figure 1- DFIRM Comparison Exhibit – Ash Creek
Figure 2 – DFIRM Comparison Exhibit – Richland Creek
Figure 3 – Area Removed from Floodplain- Plum Hill Estates

cc: FEMA Region V
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
536 South Clark Street
Sixth Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

bcc: Congressman Jerry F. Costello
Mr. Les Sterman

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF ALL LETTERS OF MAP CHANGE SINCE EFFECTIVE FIRM DATE OF NOV 5 2003

Ref. #	Case Number	Map Panel	Effective Date of Map Revision	Type of Document	Listed on FEMA Website	Listed in Preliminary FIS	Issued by St. Clair County	Comments and Notes	Flooding Source
1	04-05-0471C	17163C0220D	December 18, 2003	CLOMR-F	NO	NO	YES	Plum Hill Estates	Loop Creek
2	04-05-0883P	17163C0455D	March 1, 2004	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Reissuance of LOMR Case Number 01-05-3785P, dated November 29, 2001	Unnamed Tributary to Kaskaskia River
		17163C0465D	March 1, 2004	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Reissuance of LOMR Case Number 01-05-3785P, dated November 29, 2001	Unnamed Tributary to Kaskaskia River
3	04-05-1404A	17163C0340D	March 3, 2004	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	6452 Press Road	Richland Creek
4	04-05-1861X	17163C0220D	February 17, 2004	CLOMR-F	YES	NO	YES	Plum Hill Estates	Loop Creek
5	04-05-2329P	17163C0210D	May 14, 2004	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Reissuance of LOMRS 99-05-181P and 03-05-1670P, dated October 29, 1999 and June 5, 2003, respectively.	Unnamed Tributary to Engle Creek
		17163C0206D	May 14, 2004	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Reissuance of LOMRS 99-05-181P and 03-05-1670P, dated October 29, 1999 and June 5, 2003, respectively.	Unnamed Tributary to Engle Creek
6	04-05-2333P	17163C0220D	April 12, 2004	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Reissuance of LOMR, Case Number 00-05-315P, dated April 16, 2002	Loop Creek
7	04-05-2741A	17163C0220D	April 28, 2004	LOMR-F	YES	NO	YES	The Estates at Plum Hill	Loop Creek
8	04-05-3405A	17163C0355D	May 14, 2004	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Deer Run Subdivision (2532 Eidmann Road)	Loop Creek
9	04-05-3715A	17163C0215D	June 23, 2004	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Simmons Estates (4 Sunny Slope Drive)	Richland Creek
10	05-05-0879A	17163C0220D	March 9, 2005	LOMR-F	YES	NO	YES	Lots 11 (2852 Smokehouse Way) through 12 (2848 Smokehouse Way), The Estates at Plum Hill	Loop Creek

Ref. #	Case Number	Map Panel	Effective Date of Map Revision	Type of Document	Listed on FEMA Website	Listed in Preliminary FIS	Issued by St. Clair County	Comments and Notes	Flooding Source
11	05-05-1368A	17163C0185D	February 2, 2005	LOMA-DEN	YES	NO	YES	8250 Bunkum Road	Unnamed Flooding Source
12	05-05-2714A	17163C0210D	May 2, 2005	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Deer Creek Third Addition (801 Deer Creek Road)	Engle Creek
13	05-05-4018A	17163C0185D	August 2, 2005	LOMR-F	YES	NO	YES	8250 Bunkum Road	Unnamed Flooding Source
14	05-05-4471A	17163C0065D	January 3, 2006	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	245 Bethel Meadows Road	Unnamed Flooding Source
15	06-05-B005P	17163C0335D	March 8, 2007	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Orchards Subdivision	Unnamed Tributary to Loop Creek
16	06-05-C230P	17163C0215D	January 24, 2008	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Bischoff Estates Subdivision	Unnamed Tributary to Richland Creek
		17163C0330D	January 24, 2008	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Bischoff Estates Subdivision	Unnamed Tributary to Richland Creek
17	06-05-0298A	17163C0215D	December 1, 2005	LOMA-DEN	YES	NO	YES	Chenot Place Second Addition (7 Hollyhock Lane)	Loop Creek
18	07-05-1075A	17163C0405D	April 10, 2007	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	4118 Waterloo Road	Prairie Du Long Creek
19	07-05-2368A	17163C0220D	April 10, 2007	LOMR-F	YES	NO	YES	Lots 126-138, 176-183, The Estates at Plum Hill Plat III, and a portion of Lots 184-188, 190-195, and 204-209, The Estates at Plum Hill Plat IV	Loop Creek
20	07-05-3986A	17163C0310D	June 28, 2007	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Wessel Estate (4645 Wessel Lane)	Douglas Creek
21	07-05-4489A	17163C0435D	September 13, 2007	LOMR-FW	NO	NO	YES	7741 State Route 156	Kaskaskia River; Mississippi River
22	07-05-4876P	17163C0205D	September 28, 2007	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Windsor Creek	Unnamed & NW Tributary to Ogles Creek
		17163C0206D	September 28, 2007	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Windsor Creek	Unnamed & NW Tributary to Ogles Creek

Ref. #	Case Number	Map Panel	Effective Date of Map Revision	Type of Document	Listed on FEMA Website	Listed in Preliminary FIS	Issued by St. Clair County	Comments and Notes	Flooding Source
23	07-05-5184A	17163C0430D	November 1, 2007	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Probst Road	Richland Creek
24	07-05-5847P	17163C0465D	May 15, 2008	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Islands of Waterside	Doza Creek & Unnamed Tributary to Doza
		17163C0470D	May 15, 2008	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Islands of Waterside	Doza Creek & Unnamed Tributary to Doza
		17163C0535D	May 15, 2008	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Islands of Waterside	Doza Creek & Unnamed Tributary to Doza
25	08-05-0073A	17163C0240D	October 23, 2007	LOMA	NO	NO	YES	1301 North County Road	Silver Creek
26	08-05-0222A	17163C0215D	November 1, 2007	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Lashley Estates (327 Lake Christine Drive)	Richland Creek
27	08-05-0726P	17163C0220D	December 21, 2007	LOMR	YES	YES	NO	Green Mount Station	Loop Creek
28	08-05-0971A	17163C0170D	March 27, 2008	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	2462 Imbs Station Road	Prairie Du Pont Creek
29	08-05-3480A	17163C0410D	June 10, 2008	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	3927 Hoffman Road	Prairie Du Long Creek Tributary
30	08-05-3982A	17163C0215D	July 15, 2008	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Chenot Place First Addition (10 Carnation Drive)	Loop Creek
31	09-05-0400A	17163C0215D	December 4, 2008	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Lindbergh Circle (1110 Lindbergh Circle)	Loop Creek
32	09-05-0590A	17163C0215D	February 3, 2009	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Chenot Place First Addition (4 Carnation Drive)	Loop Creek
33	09-05-0835A	17163C0410D	February 12, 2009	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	2824 Ranch Trail Road	Prairie Du Long Creek Tributary
34	09-05-0836A	17163C0430D	December 23, 2008	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	2802 Probst Road	Richland Creek

Ref. #	Case Number	Map Panel	Effective Date of Map Revision	Type of Document	Listed on FEMA Website	Listed in Preliminary FIS	Issued by St. Clair County	Comments and Notes	Flooding Source
35	09-05-2059A	17163C0090D	February 11, 2009	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	Silver Creek Crossing (8720 Old Lebanon Troy Road)	Silver Creek
36	09-05-2757A	17163C0230D	May 14, 2009	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	10958 Hagemann Road	Hagemann Creek; Silver Creek
37	09-05-3215A	17163C0185D	June 4, 2009	LOMA	YES	NO	YES	8124 Bunkum Road	Overland Flow

COLOR CODE

LOMRs not included in Preliminary FIS	Letters of Map Revision	LOMC Included in specific source
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LOMAs and LOMRs NOT LISTED IN PRELIMINARY ST. CLAIR COUNTY FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

Reference No.	LOMA or LOMR	Project Name	FEMA Case Number	Project Type	Engineering Firm	Stream Impacted	Result from LOMR or LOMA	Impact Ranking
1	CLOMR-F	Plum Hill Estates	04-05-0471C	Subdivision	Woolpert LLP	Loop Creek	removed 63 lots from the floodplain	5
2	LOMA	6452 Press Road	04-05-1404A	Residential Structure/Pole Barn		Richland Creek	removed 2 structures from floodplain	0
3	CLOMR-F	Plum Hill Estates	04-05-1861X	Subdivision	Woolpert LLP	Loop Creek	supersedes previous documentation	5
4	LOMR-F	The Estates at Plum Hill	04-05-2741A	Subdivision		Loop Creek	removed 38 lots from the floodplain	4
5	LOMA	2532 Eldmann Road	04-05-3405A	Deer Run Subdivision		Loop Creek	partially removed	0
6	LOMA	4 Sunny Slope Drive	04-05-3715A	Simmons Estates		Richland Creek	partially removed	0
7	LOMR-F	Plum Hill Estates I	05-05-0879A	Subdivision		Loop Creek	removed 2 lots from the floodplain	1
8	LOMA	8250 Bunkum Road	05-05-1368A	Structures (2 buildings)	Thomas Hoffman Surveying Co.	Unnamed Flooding Source	did not remove 2 buildings from floodplain	0
9	LOMA	801 Deer Creek Road	05-05-2714A	Deer Creek Third Addition		Engle Creek	partially removed	0
10	LOMR-F	8250 Bunkum Road	05-05-4018A	Structures (2 buildings)		Unnamed Flooding Source	supersedes previous documentation	1
11	LOMA	245 Bethel Meadows Road	05-05-4471A	Structure		Unnamed Flooding Source	partially removed	0
12	LOMA	7 Hollyhock Lane	06-05-0298A	Chenot Place Second Addition		Loop Creek	did not remove structure	0
13	LOMA	4118 Waterloo Road	07-05-1075A	Structure		Prairie Du Long Creek	partially removed	0
14	LOMR-F	The Estates at Plum Hill IV	07-05-2368A	Portion of Property		Loop Creek	29 lots or portions removed from floodplain	4
15	LOMA	4645 Wessels Lane	07-05-3986A	Wessels Estate		Douglas Creek	partially removed	0
16	LOMR	7741 State Route 156	07-05-4489A	Structure	First American Flood Data Services	Kaskaskia River; Mississippi River	inadvertent inclusion in the floodway- 1 lot	1
17	LOMA	Probst Road	07-05-5184A	Portion of Property		Richland Creek	partially removed	0
18	LOMA	1301 North County Road	08-05-0073A	Portion of Property	Berutti & Associates, Inc.	Silver Creek	partially removed	0
19	LOMA	327 Lake Christine Drive	08-05-0222A	Structure		Richland Creek	partially removed	0
20	LOMA	2462 Imbs Station Road	08-05-0971A	Structure		Prairie Du Pont Creek	partially removed	0
21	LOMA	3927 Hoffman Road	08-05-3480A	Structure	Netemeyer Engineering Associates	Prairie Du Long Creek Tributary	partially removed	0
22	LOMA	10 Carnation Drive	08-05-3982A	Chenot Place First Addition		Loop Creek	removed property from floodplain	0
23	LOMA	1110 Lindbergh Circle	09-05-0400A	Lindbergh Circle		Loop Creek	partially removed	0
24	LOMA	4 Carnation Drive	09-05-0590A	Chenot Place First Addition		Loop Creek	partially removed	0
25	LOMA	2824 Ranch Trail Road	09-05-0835A	Portion of Property		Prairie Du Long Creek Tributary	partially removed	0
26	LOMA	2802 Probst Road	09-05-0836A	Structure	Heneghan and Associates, P.C.	Richland Creek	partially removed	0
27	LOMA	8720 Old Lebanon Troy Road	09-05-2059A	Silver Creek Crossing	Hoelscher Engineering, P.C.	Silver Creek	partially removed	0
28	LOMA	10958 Hagemann Road	09-05-2757A	Structure	Netemeyer Engineering Associates	Hagemann Creek; Silver Creek	partially removed	0
29	LOMA	8124 Bunkum Road	09-05-3215A	Structure		Overland Flow	partially removed	0
		LOMRs not included in FIS						7
		LOMRs not included in FIS						22

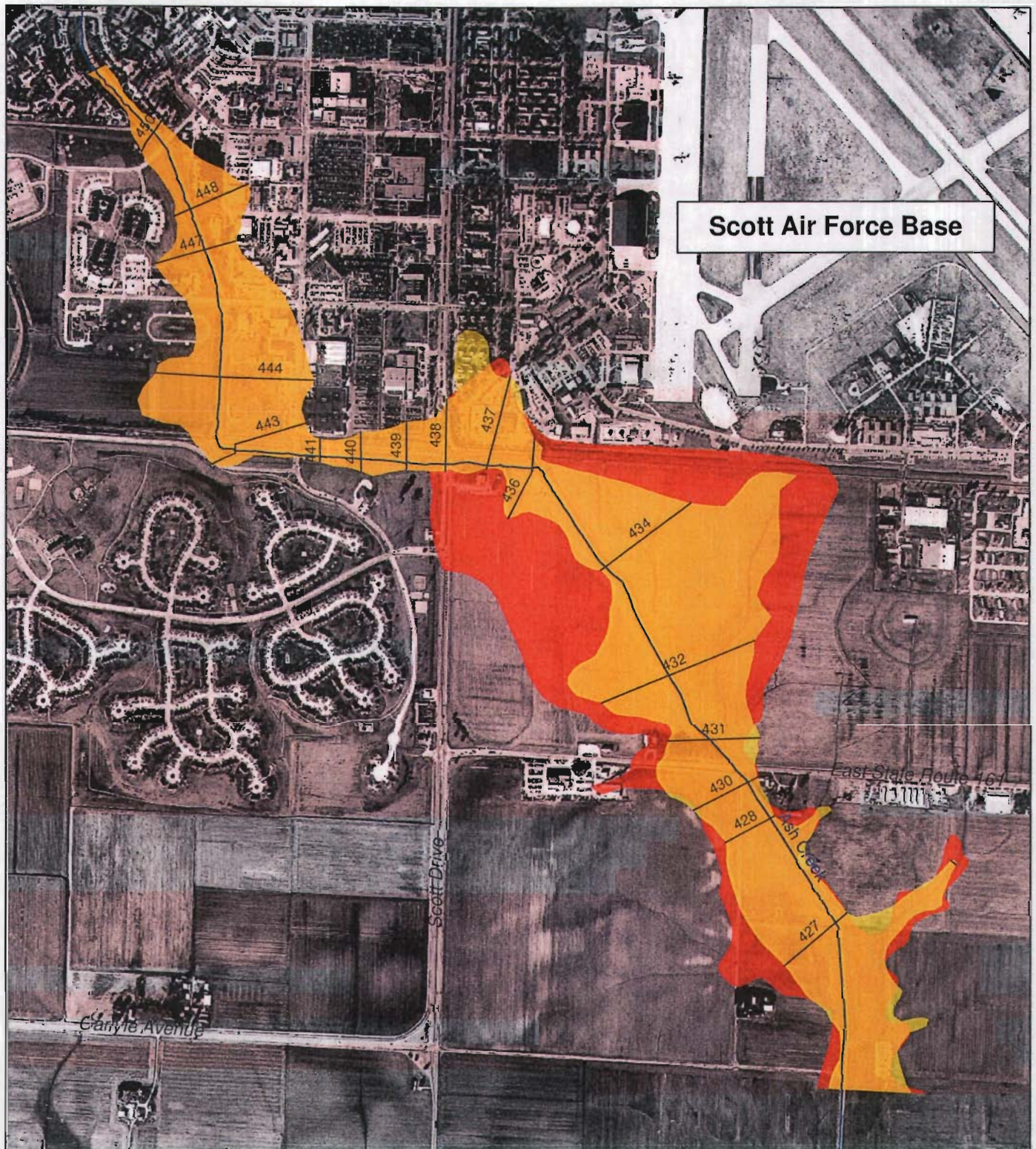


FIGURE 1
ASH CREEK
 DFIRM Floodplain Comparison



Hoelscher Engineering, P.C.
 11 Executive Drive, Suite 12
 Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

Legend

- Preliminary DFIRM Floodplain using 4-ft. contours
- Common DFIRM Floodplain Area
- Preliminary DFIRM Floodplain
- 100-yr. Base Flood Elevations



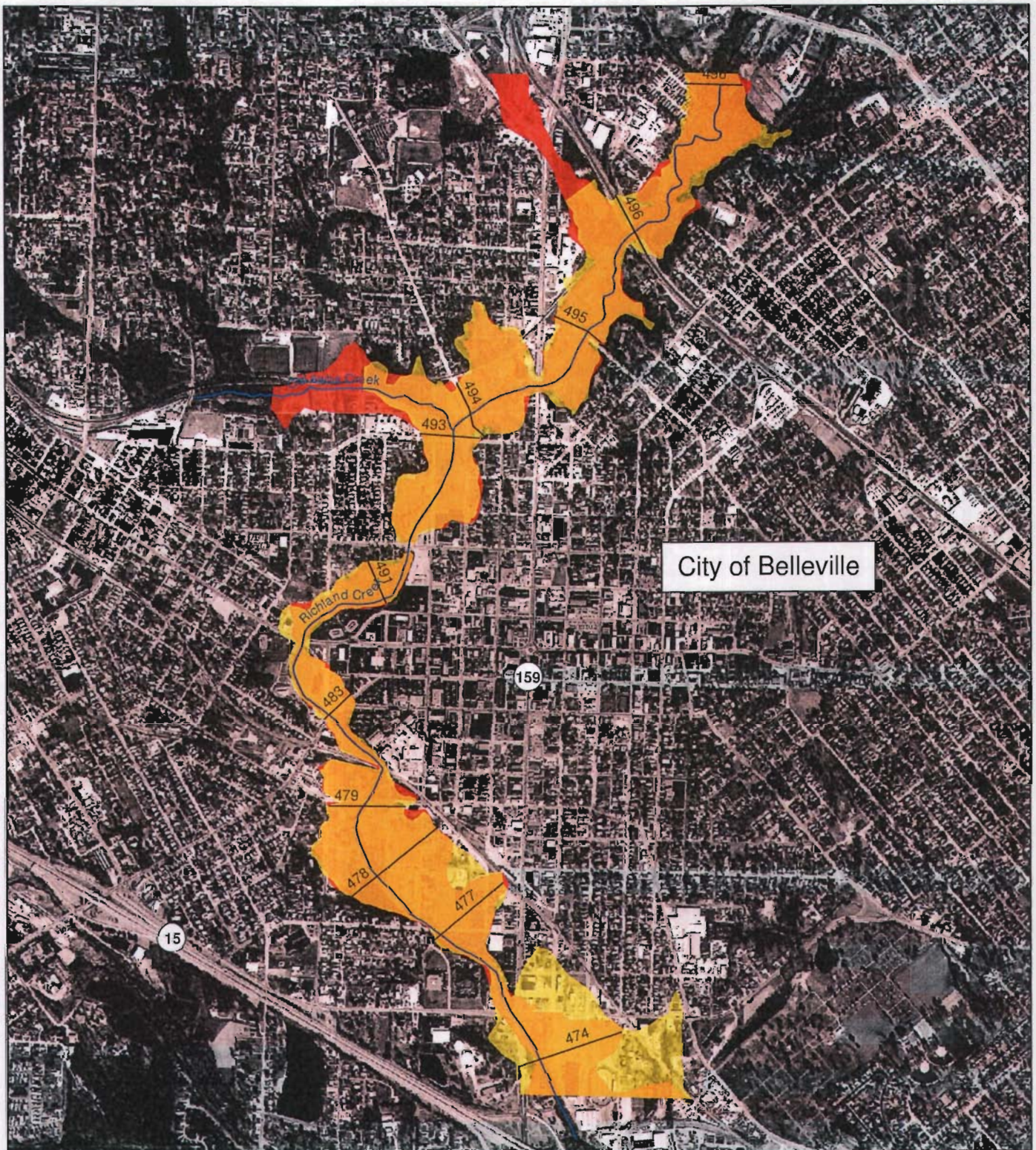


FIGURE 2
RICHLAND CREEK
 DFIRM Floodplain Comparison



Hoelscher Engineering, P.C.
 11 Executive Drive, Suite 12
 Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
 Feet

Legend

- Preliminary DFIRM Floodplain using 4-ft. contours
- Common DFIRM Floodplain Area
- Preliminary DFIRM Floodplain
- Preliminary 100-yr. Base Flood Elevations





FIGURE 3
DFIRM IN VICINITY OF PLUM HILL ESTATES